

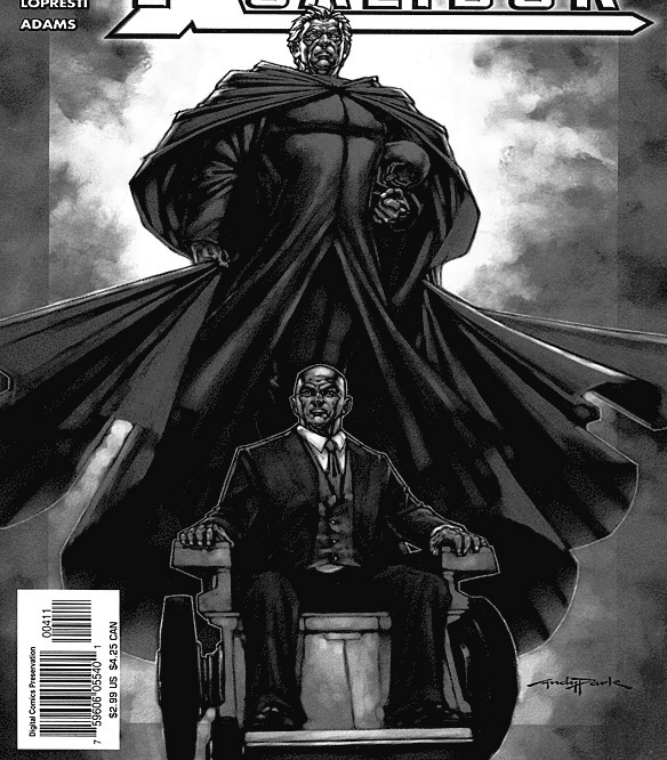
VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL
PSR 4

CLAREMONT
LOPRESTI
ADAMS

EXCALIBUR™



Digital Comics Preservation



7 59606 05540 1

\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

Frank Miller

PREVIOUSLY

EXCALIBUR

"FORGING THE SWORD"



PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, founder of the mutant super hero team known as the X-MEN, has left the X-Men and his New York home for the island nation of GENOSHA following the death of his one-time friend and frequent enemy, MAGNETO. Once a prosperous, technologically advanced country populated almost entirely by mutants, Genosha was recently decimated—along with all 16 million mutants who called it home. Now, it is nothing but rubble and a few refugees who hide amongst its ruins.

Xavier finds that not everybody on Genosha is happy he's there—for instance, UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE and his gang, who threaten him. But to his defense come two young mutants—WICKED and FREAKSHOW. Xavier learns he has both friends and enemies on Genosha.

When Xavier reaches his dwelling, he is greeted by a new housemate, a man the entire world believes to be dead...MAGNETO.



The man who recently destroyed much of New York City, it turns out, was *not* Magneto, but an imposter. The real Magneto has been hiding in Genosha since it was destroyed. He and Xavier have a hard time explaining this, however, when they're paid a visit by...CALLISTO, an old associate of the X-Men, who threatens to turn Magneto over to the authorities for the bounty.

To Magneto's rescue come Wicked and Freakshow...and after everyone has calmed down, the group assembled—adults Magneto, Xavier and Callisto, and teenagers Wicked and Freakshow—realize they have a common desire: to restore Genosha to its former glory.

Back in the hideout of Unus and his gang, a young mutant named HUB has infiltrated their group...for reasons not yet clear. She is contacted by a comrade, HACK, who tells her that Genosha has become the target of an OMEGA SENTINEL...a cybernetically-enhanced human that is programmed to annihilate all mutants!



In the house he now shares with Magneto, Xavier has a sudden and horrifying vision: an Omega Sentinel, come to kill him. Elsewhere, Hub and Hack have learned that the Omega Sentinel is aboard an aircraft now approaching Genosha. With their feral friend, PURGE, they use Hub's powers to teleport to the plane, where they discover two metal capsules: one containing a telekinetic Genoshan mutant named SHOLA INKOSHE, and the other an officer of the Indian National Police named KARIMA SHAPANDAR—the Omega Sentinel. And guarding this precious cargo is a host of MAGISTRATES—the former, human rulers of Genosha.

In the ensuing fight, the plane is destroyed and the two coffins plummet into Hammer Bay. Xavier, Magneto and the kids rush to survey the damage—only to find an armed force of Magistrates descending on Genosha!

Starline
Presents
E CALIBUR

By Chris
Claremont
and
Aaron
Lopresti

HAMMER BAY

CAPITAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF
GENOSHA



MAGISTRATES!

WHAT ARE
THEY DOING
HERE? WHAT
DO THEY
WANT??

THIS
ISN'T FAIR,
FREAKSHOW!
GENOSHA'S
OUR COUNTRY
NOW!

SO
MAYBE
THEY
WANT IT
BACK!

WE'RE
MUTANTS,
WICKED!

THEIR
JOB IS TO
MAKE US
SLAVES!

OR
KILL
US!



WHAT ARE YOU TWO, DEER IN THE FLAMIN' HEAD-LIGHTS?



THIS IS A KILLING GROUND, PUMPKINS.

YOU WANT TO LIVE...



...YOU BETTER START DEVELOPING SOME MAJOR SURVIVAL SMARTS.

FIRST LESSON--



--LEAVE THE COMBAT TO THE TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.



7/14/4
I DUNNO
WHAT
BROUGHT
THESE IDIOTS
BACK...

...BUT WE'RE
GONNA MAKE
'EM PAY!

GENOSHA USED TO
BE ONE OF THE
WEALTHIEST AND MOST
TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED NATIONS
ON THE PLANET.

BUT ALL THAT
WEALTH AND
POWER WAS
BUILT UPON A
FOUNDATION...

...OF GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED
MUTANT SLAVES.

THE MAGISTRATES
KEPT THE PEACE
ON THE ISLAND.

THEIR PRIMARY MISSION
WAS TO DEAL WITH ANY
MUTANT WHO RESISTED
OR TRIED TO ESCAPE.

CHAMP!



THAT REGIME
WAS EVENTUALLY
OVERTHROWN,
HOWEVER...



...AND MAGNETO
PROCLAIMED THE NEW
REPUBLIC A MUTANT
HOMELAND.

WHICH IN TURN
WAS DEVASTATED
BY THE MEGA-
SENTINEL ATTACK.

WITH
THE ISLAND
ONCE
MORE UP
FOR GRABS...



...IS IT ANY
WONDER THE
PREVIOUS
RULERS ARE
EAGER TO
STAGE A
COUNTER-
REVOLUTION?



YANK!

WHEN THAT
DAY COMES,
WE WILL
OF COURSE
RESIST.



THE
QUESTION IS,
WILL WE--
CAN WE
PREVAIL?











ONE COCOON FELL IN THE HARBOR, THE OTHER LANDED NEARBY.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT...

...THAT THE MAGISTRATES'LL START A SMALL WAR TO RETRIEVE THEM.



CALLISTO--?!



SHE'LL BE OKAY. NO NEED TO CRY. WICKED, SHE'LL BE SAFE.

SHE'S GOT YOUR SPIRITS TO PROTECT HER.



MORE THAN 16 MILLION PEOPLE DIED ON GENOSHA.



THE SPIRIT OF EVERY ONE IS WICKED'S TO COMMAND.

FREAKSHOW IS A MEGAMORPH.

WHEN HE ASSUMES ONE OF HIS ALTERNATE SHAPES...



...HE MANIFESTS APPROPRIATE POWERS AS WELL.



HEY,
WICKED! HEY,
CALLISTO!
I THINK
I FOUND THE
COCOON!

WHOHW!



YEARRRGH!

I DON'T GET IT--
HOW CAN THEY
BEAT HIM?

SAME WAY
CHARLEY DID--
THEY GOT
CREATIVE. THEY
GOT NASTY.

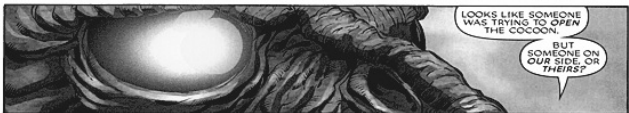
A FORCE
FIELD WON'T
PROTECT
UNUS AGAINST
A BARRAGE
OF SONIC
PULSES!



AND
NOW
THEY'RE
AFTER
US!



WICKED--
CALLISTO--
THERE'S
SOMEONE
INSIDE!



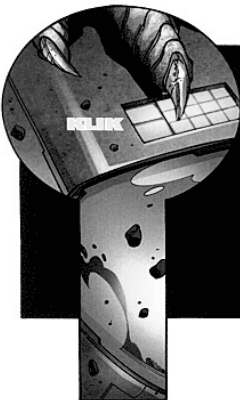
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE
WAS TRYING TO OPEN
THE COCOON.

BUT
SOMEONE ON
OUR SIDE, OR
THEIRS?

RETRIEVAL TEAM
ALERT--OBJECTIVE
COMPROMISED!



FREAKSHOW, THE
BUILDING--!



WICKED, CAN
YOUR GHOSTS DO
ANYTHING--?!

I DON'T
KNOW--! I NEVER
IMAGINED--!





MEANWHILE, BACK
UNDER HAMMER BAY...



NO SUCH
LUCK, OLD
FRIEND!

IT
APPEARS
YOUR
NIGHTMARE
IS COMING
TRUE!





ZAMPE!







YOU'RE
SERIOUS?

ABSOLUTELY.



WELL,
THEN--

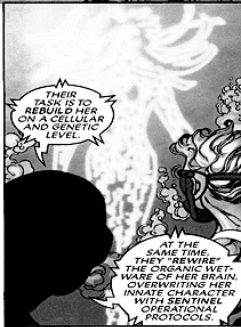
SHE'LL HAVE
A BETTER CHANCE
IF WE WORK
TOGETHER.



I HAVEN'T
SEEN THAT KIND OF
FIRE IN YOU IN A
LONG TIME.

ANY
IDEAS TO GO
ALONG WITH
IT?

SHE'S BEEN
INFECTED BY
NANNITES.



THEIR
TASK IS TO
REBUILD HER
ON A CELLULAR
AND GENETIC
LEVEL.

AT THE
SAME TIME,
THEY "REWIRE"
THE ORGANIC WET-
WARE OF HER BRAIN,
OVERWRITING HER
INNATE CHARACTER
WITH SENTINEL
OPERATIONAL
PROTOCOLS.



CAN WE PURGE
THE NANNITES?

THE
HARDWARE
MODIFICATIONS
ARE TOO
ADVANCED.

WE
CAN'T CHANGE
HER BODY
BACK.



HER
BRAIN,
THEN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

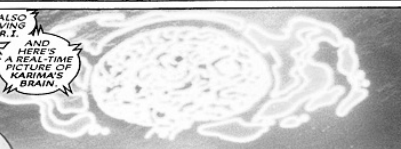
I'M THE
MASTER OF
MAGNETISM.
YES?

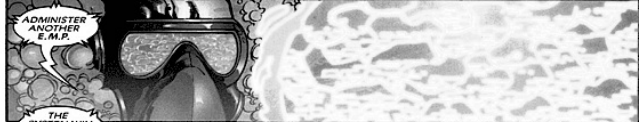


YOU THINK
IT'S ALL REVERSING
THE PLANETARY
MAGNETIC POLES
AND SUCH?

I'M ALSO
A LIVING
M.R.I.

AND
HERE'S A
REAL-TIME
PICTURE OF
KARIMA'S
BRAIN.







WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LOOKS CLEAN TO ME.



ACID TEST, THEN.



I'M RELEASING MY HOLD ON HER INTERNAL SYSTEMS.



AND I ON HER PSYCHE.

OH!



IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY--



--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?!

AT ROUGHLY THAT
MOMENT, BACK ASHORE...

SKBRAM!

NO OFFENSE,
CHARLEY, BUT IF
YOU'VE GOT YOUR
TELEPATHIC
"EARS" ON...

...WE
NEED SOME
SERIOUS
HELP!

WHO
ARE YOU
PEOPLE?

I LIVE
IN CHICAGO
NOW. HOW'D
I GET
HERE?

ASK
THEM.

YOU IN ANY
CONDITION TO
FIGHT?

LADY,
I CAN'T
EVEN
STAND.

UP
TO ME,
THEN.



WOW,
WHO'S
THAT?!

WHO-
EVER SHE
IS, I'M GLAD
SHE'S ON OUR
SIDE!

AFTERMATH...

DON'T
YOU HEAR
SO GOOD,
BALDY?

YOU
TURN THOSE
MAGISTRATE
PRISONERS
OVER TO
ME!





ALONE, MAGNETO OR I PROBABLY COULD HAVE DESTROYED KARIMA, AND VERY LIKELY HAVE DEFEATED THE MAGISTRATES.

VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION ALWAYS SEEM TO COME SO EASILY TO EVEN THE BEST AMONG US.



BUT TOGETHER, WE FOUND A BETTER WAY.



THAT PARADIGM MAY WORK AS WELL FOR A NATION AS FOR A PERSON.

WILL YOU HELP?



NEXT:
Food Fight!

SWORD STROKES

AUGUST 2004 X-MEN TITLES

X-FORCE 1: The legend returns! Liefeld and Nicieza!

UNCANNY X-MEN 447: The final battle with The Fury!

EXILES 50 and 51: The Exiles vs. The Brotherhood of Mutants!

ALPHA FLIGHT 6: Can Alpha Flight destroy the Ploex?

X-MEN UNLIMITED 4: Juggernaut and Emma Frost!

X-MEN: THE END 1 and 2: The epic saga of the final days of the X-Men!

DISTRICT X 4: Bishop tries to get a deadly drug off the streets!

EMMA FROST 14: A man from Emma's past returns!

WEAPON X 27: Sabretooth vs. Sinister! 'Nuff said!

X-MEN 160: Can the X-Men stop Xorn from destroying the world?

NEW X-MEN: ACADEMY X 4: Which team will take the gold?

ROGUE 2: Rogue returns to her childhood home!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 6: The muscles and the mayhem!

WOLVERINE: THE END 5: The story that began in ORIGIN!

WOLVERINE 18: Wolverine, Sabretooth, and the mysterious Native!

ASTONISHING X-MEN 4: The issue everyone will be talking about!

EXCALIBUR 4: The fight for control over Genosha!

MYSTIQUE 18: Mystique takes on DermaFree!

X-STATIX 26: Spectacular series finale!

Welcome back to Sword Strokes! This month, we've got *all three covers* for the next EXCALIBUR story arc to show you! Be sure to check out Part 1 of "FOOD FIGHT", on sale next month!



NEXT ISSUE:

**DANGER...
FROM
WITHIN
AND
WITHOUT!**

STEPHANIE MOORE
SEAN RYAN
ASSISTANT EDITORS

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SWORD STROKES C/O MARVEL COMICS
10 EAST 40TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10016

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE
LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

E-MAIL:
OFFICEX@
MARVEL.COM
MARK E-MAIL
"OKAY TO
PRINT"



*WITH TEAMWORK
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE....*

TEAM DCP

Digitally Preserving That Which Needs To Be Preserved